

HIV/AIDS Profile: Cameroon

Demographic Indicators

	with AIDS	without AIDS		with AIDS	without AIDS
Population (1000s)	15,422	15,779	Growth Rate (%)	2.5 %	2.8 %
Crude Birth Rate	37	37	Crude Death Rate	12	9
Infant Mortality Rate			Life Expectancy		
Both Sexes	71	65	Both Sexes	55	63
Male	76	70	Male	54	61
Female	66	60	Female	56	64

Percent Urban	44		Total Fertility Rate	4.9	
Note: Above indicators are for 2000.					

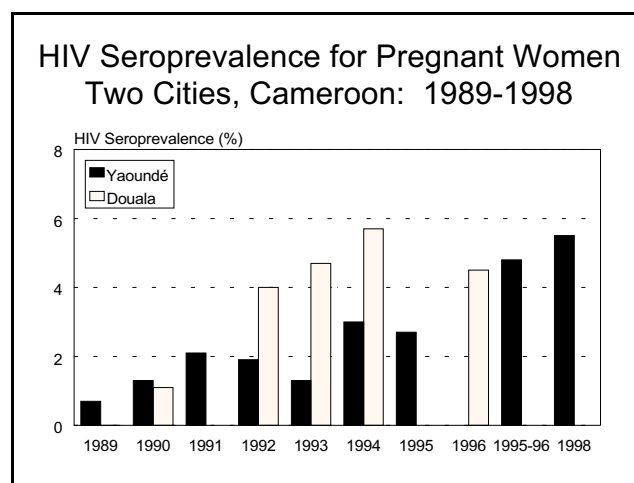
Estimated % of adults living with HIV/AIDS, end 1999			7.7 %		
Cumulative AIDS rate (per 1,000) as of 6/11/98			0.93		
Cumulative AIDS cases as of 6/11/98			13576		
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, UNAIDS, Population Reference Bureau, World Health Organization.					

Epidemiological Data

Epidemic State: Generalized

Information on the HIV epidemic in Cameroon primarily pertains to urban areas. There have been steady increases in prevalence among pregnant women and blood donors since 1990. By the late 1990s, prevalence ranged from 6 to 19 percent among pregnant women. HIV prevalence trends among sex workers remain unclear.

- According to sentinel surveillance, HIV infection generally increased among pregnant women in Cameroon's two main cities, Yaoundé, the capital, and Douala, during the 1990s. In both cities, HIV prevalence was 1 percent in 1990. By 1998, the infection rate in Yaoundé was almost 6 percent while, in 1996, the rate in Douala was 5 percent.

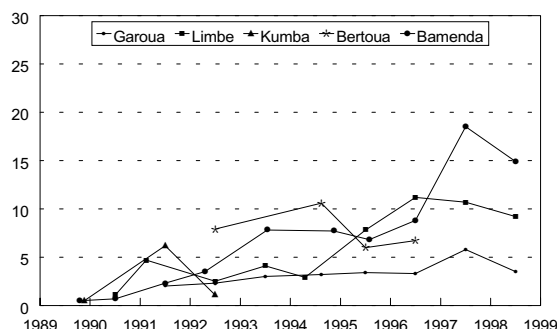


Source: International Programs Center, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data Base, June 2000.

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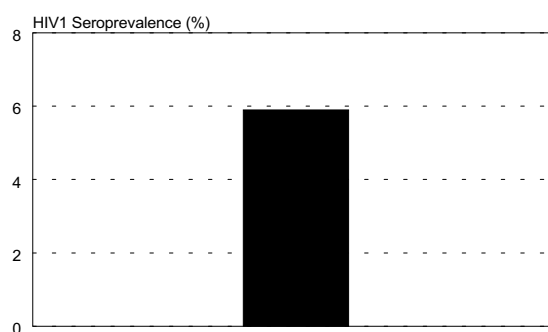
- HIV infection levels among pregnant women have generally risen in other cities of the country as well. In Bamenda, the capital of Northwest Province, 19 percent of pregnant women tested were HIV positive in 1997, much higher than the rate in Yaoundé or Douala. Higher levels were also seen in Limbe, an industrial harbor town. Eleven percent of pregnant women there were HIV positive in 1997.

HIV Seroprevalence for Pregnant Women
Selected Cities in Cameroon: 1989-1998



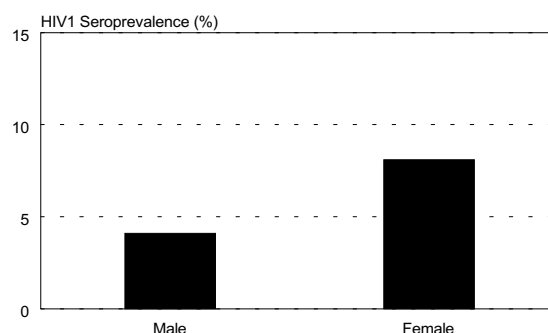
- Six percent of the general population was HIV positive in 1997-98 in Yaoundé. This result is from a multi-centre study of adults carried out in four African cities.

HIV Seroprevalence for General Population
Yaoundé, Cameroon: 1997-1998



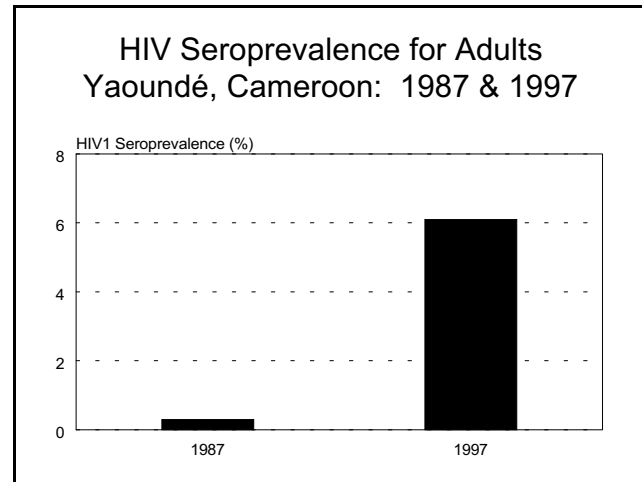
- The results from the multi-centre study indicated that HIV seroprevalence was two times higher among female adults in Yaoundé. Eight percent of females were HIV positive, while 4 percent of males were infected.

HIV Seroprevalence for Adults
Yaoundé, Cameroon: 1997-1998

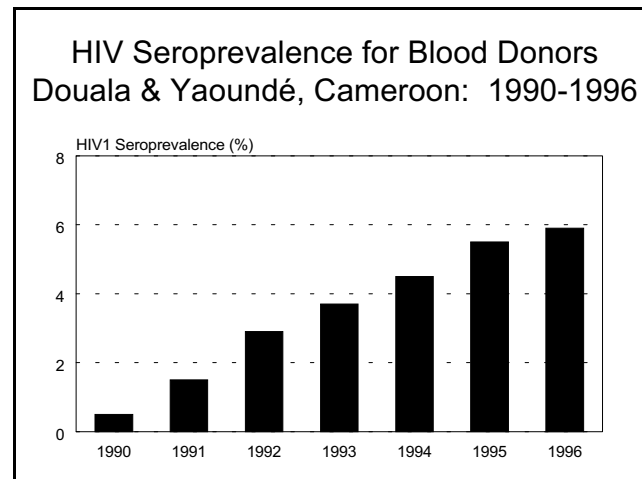


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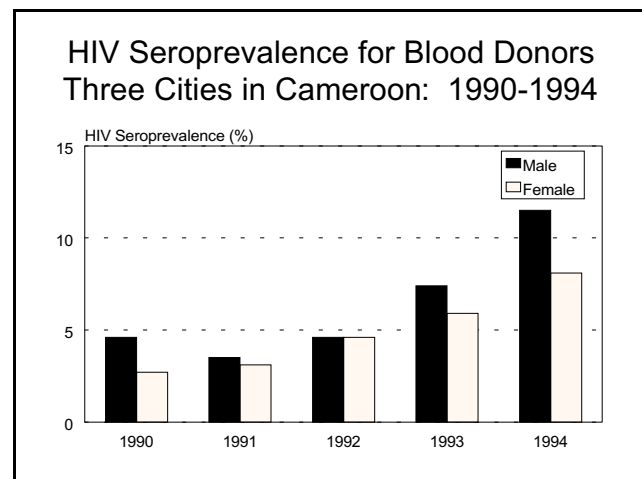
- HIV infection has increased dramatically within a low-risk population in Yaoundé. In 1987, less than 1 percent of adults tested were HIV positive. In 1997, 6 percent were infected, a six-fold increase within a ten year time span.



- At each city's main hospital, blood donors were tested for HIV in Douala and Yaoundé. Prevalence has steadily increased since 1990. From less than a 1 percent infection level in 1990, prevalence rose to 6 percent of blood donors tested in 1996.

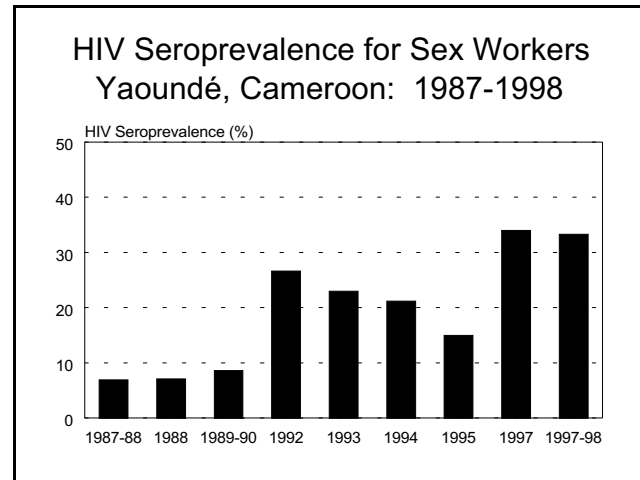


- HIV1 and/or HIV2 prevalence of blood donors tested at blood banks in Yaoundé, Douala, and Ebolowa, the center of the cocoa trade located in southwest Cameroon, has steadily risen since 1990. Male blood donors prevalence went from 5 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 1994. Female donor infection levels rose from 3 percent in 1990 to 8 percent in 1994.

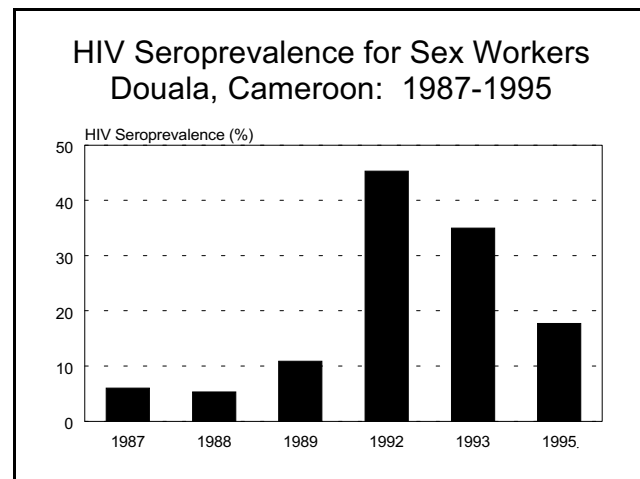


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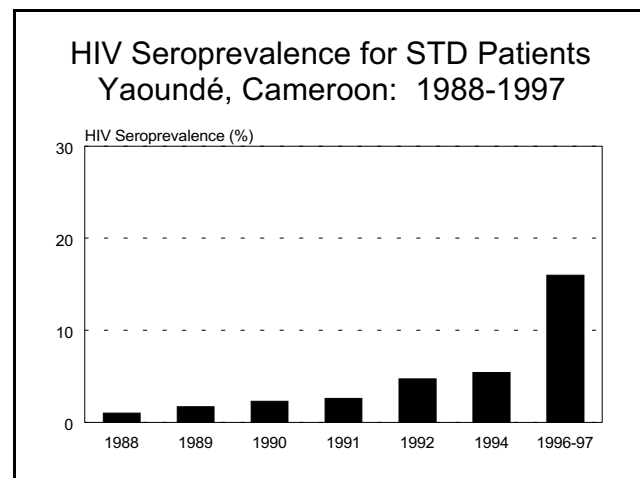
- HIV infection levels among sex workers in Yaoundé have fluctuated over time, remaining stable by the late 1990s. By 1998, 33 percent of sex workers tested were HIV positive.



- After an alarmingly sharp increase among sex workers in HIV prevalence in Douala in the early 1990s, prevalence fell to 18 percent in 1995.

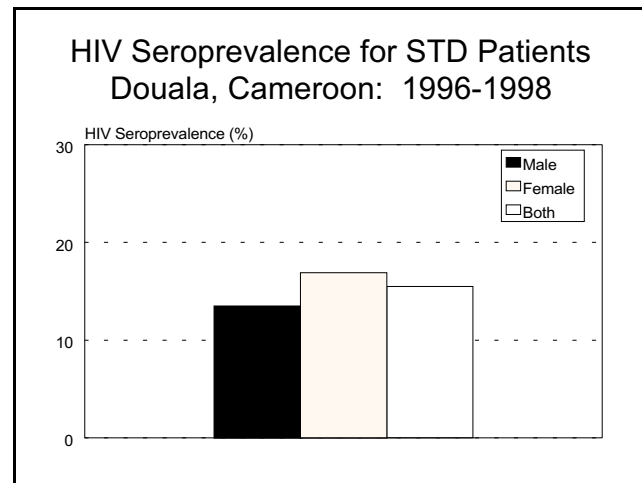


- HIV seroprevalence among patients attending STD clinics in Yaoundé rose to 16 percent in 1996-97. Previous levels ranged from 1 to 5 percent.



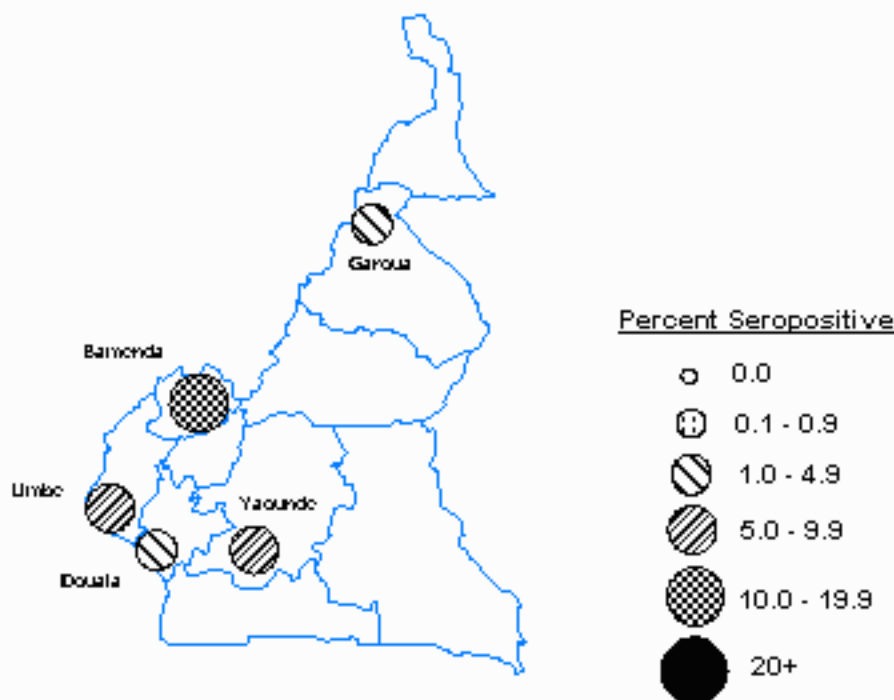
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- There was little difference between male and female HIV prevalence levels among patients seen at the Dispensaire Antivénérien (DAV) Hospital in Douala varied by sex. Fourteen percent of male patients and 17 percent of female patients were HIV positive. The overall rate was 16 percent.



Seroprevalence of HIV-1 for Pregnant Women

Cameroon: 1996 - 1998



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¹ This source is not available in the June 2000 version of the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data Base but will be included in future versions.

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